

**Vermont
Workforce Development Council**

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

6/11/07 & 7/9/07

NOTE: The August 13 meeting will begin at 1:30 to provide additional time for work on the strategic plan.

1) Review of Next Generation Funding Criteria -

Implementation Process: Pat Moulton Powden distributed the draft criteria for these funds several days in advance of the meeting for members to review. The law calls for the WDC to develop the WETF criteria and for DOL to consult with the WDC on the tech ed funding included in the new law. It was agreed early in June that DOL would prepare a set of criteria for review and that Chip would participate in that process. Pat provided an overview of the draft and reported that DOL proposes to distribute the draft by e-mail June to solicit comments. The Committee commented that the WETF description should include clearer language about the priority the legislation places on training for new and vacant jobs and it was agreed to revise this language. The draft was released to a number of e-mail lists during the week of June 18. Only a few responses were received and these will be addressed when the applications are released the first week in July. The application for the WETF training funds will be the first one released as there are already organizations preparing applications.

Internship Program: The application for internships will be more challenging to develop as there is less of an experience base with successful models. The Committee requested that Pat keep the criteria to a minimum for the internship program and to let applicants innovate. It was felt that we should encourage experimentation with new approaches and designs. It was agreed that over time we will find certain models that will be more successful and that these should be replicated, but the opportunity for innovation should be preserved. Rep. Kupersmith attended the July meeting and strongly endorsed this approach. Pat reported the Department is estimating that about 20% of the WETF funds will go to internship programs in the first year, however this is not a firm limit and the figure will be adjusted depending on demand.

WIB Role: It was voted unanimously that the WIBs should be eligible to apply for WETF funds as they can for other funds, however when this occurs, the application will go straight to DOL rather than through the WIB review process. In addition, it was agreed and approved by the Committee that the WIB review process for all WETF applications should result in a recommendation to DOL to fund or not to fund base solely on the criteria on the WIB review sheet. This would be a change from past practice where a WIB disapproval made an application ineligible for funding. This change, and the policy change directing all applicants to contact the regional DOL manager for an application will ensure that all applicants have the opportunity for review at the State level.

2) Leadership Committee and Sustainable Funding Committee: Members were invited to express interest in serving on these committees at the June 12 WDC meeting. Several members expressed interest. Pat is maintaining a list of these individuals and the Committee discussed possible additional members that we would appoint and recommend to the Governor for his appointments. We will need to contact several business groups to solicit or request their support for additional candidates.

2) Council Vision - Chip provided a copy of the vision and implementation plan that was developed last fall as a starting point for discussion, however this was tabled till the July meeting. It was agreed that the next Generation bill casts our work in a new light and that our plan should be revised to reflect these new opportunities and requirements. At the July meeting time was again too short for discussion of the plan, and it was agreed to start the August meeting an hour earlier.

3) WIB Funding - Chip proposed that we maintain the funding distribution for WIBs at the '07 level for the year beginning July 1, 2007, and use the \$24,000 in new funds to implement two strategies that the Committee has discussed in the past. This would be to use about ½ of the increase for performance bonuses to selected WIBs based on their quarterly performance reports and utilize the other half to contract for in-person technical assistance to the WIBs that need to improve their performance by focusing assessing training needs and stimulating applications the WETF and VTP from their regions. This recommendation was approved unanimously.

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